

Minutes of the Combined Health & Human Services Board & Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Chairs Farrell and Paulson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Citizen Members Dennis Farrell (Chair) and JoAnn Weidmann, and Supervisors Janel Brandtjen, Jim Jeskewitz, and Duane Paulson. Supervisor Paul Decker arrived at 1:04 p.m. **Absent:** Citizen Members Dr. Peter Geiss, Flor Gonzalez, Michael O'Brien, and Joe Vitale.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Duane Paulson, Jim Jeskewitz, Janel Brandtjen, Bill Zaborowski, Gilbert Yerke, Pauline Jaske, and Kathleen Cummings. Zaborowski left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Ann Olson, Veterans Services Director John Margowski, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Senior Financial Analyst Bill Duckwitz, Public Health Manager Nancy Healy Haney, Children & Family Services Manager Jesús Mireles, Alternate Care & Children with Special Needs Supervisor Don Daniels, Deputy Health & Human Services Director Don Maurer, and Accounting Services Coordinator Cynthia Lilley. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

Committee Agenda Items

Approve Minutes 12-4-08 and 4-16-09

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve the minutes of December 4. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Yerke to approve the minutes of April 16. Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Paulson advised of the following correspondence.

- Two fund transfers for the Public Health Division relating to state/federal pandemic grant funds.
- A grant application to expand substance abuse treatment capacity for adult drug courts.

Executive Committee Report of 5-11-09

Paulson advised of the following items discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting.

- Denied a tax intercept appeal. The citizen failed to appear.

Decker arrived at 1:04 p.m.

- Approved the ordinances and appointments that were included in the last yellow packet.
- Heard a 2008 year-end report on capital projects.

Future Agenda Items

Yerke asked for an update on the senior nutrition programs. Paulson asked that this be agendaized for a July meeting.

Paulson said Vitale had back surgery yesterday and he is awaiting an update.

Review and Accept the 2008 Annual Report of the Veterans' Services Department

Margowski highlighted his report as outlined and indicated there were a total of 8,519 incoming phone calls and 3,831 clients came into the office. A total of 157 referrals for additional services were made during the year for other federal, state, and county providers. A total of 133 court appearances on behalf of veterans were made during the year. State and federal benefits totaled \$91,756,587. This includes compensation and pension, education benefits and grants, home loans, insurance and indemnities, medical expenditures, personal loans, home improvement loans, etc.

Brandtjen asked Margowski, prior to his retirement, for information on those serviced deemed effective and those that can be improved upon. Margowski asked Brandtjen to contact him to talk about specifics.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Jaske to accept the 2008 Annual Report of the Veterans' Services Department. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss Funding from Hospitals to Continue Immunization Clinics

Brandtjen described an effort to encourage area hospitals to donate funds to help maintain immunization clinics for low income families in the county. She said Farrell, Paulson, Schuler, Maurer, and County Executive Vrakas have been very supportive. A letter was authored by Maurer for Vrakas' approval asking hospitals to help fund the clinics. Brandtjen advised funding cuts totaled about 30% and more cuts are expected. Her fund raising goal is about \$46,000. Maurer indicated the adopted County budget did not call for the cancellation of any clinics in 2009 and there would be an allowance for fund raising. It was hopeful, and agreed upon, that funds could be raised but if not they would figure out a way to avoid closures in 2009. Maurer said beyond 2009 is another discussion.

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Cummings to endorse this initiative. Motion carried 7 -0.

Board Agenda Items

Approve Minutes of 4-30-09

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Paulson to approve the minutes of April 30. Motion carried 6-0.

Combined Agenda Items

Public Health Update

Healy Haney distributed copies of an article she wrote on the Swine Flu in Waukesha County as requested by the Swine Flu Task Force. They are still trying to contain the disease and there have been 90+ cases so far in Waukesha County. A Joint Information Center has been established to

provide information to the various communities in the county. In the beginning, the entire state followed the directives of the Centers for Disease Control to isolate individuals with the disease, their families, and close schools. Over time, experts have determined that the disease is not as virulent as it was in Mexico. However, the County's Public Health Division has discovered the first case of viral meningitis in the state involving a 17-year old who has been hospitalized. It is very possible the meningitis is a result of the Swine Flu.

Healy Haney indicated that Public Health staff have determined that only 11 pediatric doses of Tamiflu are available in the county. Most pharmacies do not carry pediatric Tamiflu. Staff have requested pediatric doses from the strategic national stockpile and while many pharmacies declined, Walmart has agreed to dispense the drug. She said you can't just simply pass it out – there is a lot to it. She is very grateful for Walmart as they do not get paid for this.

Healy Haney said the Centers for Disease Control has canceled the July 7th drill because of the Swine Flu outbreak and it will likely be rescheduled.

Zaborowski left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Public Health Governance Essential Service #9

Healy Haney said Essential Services #9 evaluates effectiveness, accessibility, and the quality of personal and population-based health services. For assessment purposes, the Health Report Card (HRC) is developed every three years and they just completed the National Performance Standard Assessment. They have worked with Aurora Healthcare for the last three years surveying citizens on their health status, part of which is used for the HRC. They are very grateful to Aurora for funding this survey. They are also getting input on the needs of two local clinics that serve low income families. In addition, the Public Health Division has a good working relationship with Waukesha Family Practice.

An Overview of the Children with Special Needs, Family Support, United Cerebral Palsy Respite Programs and Changes Made to Service More Families and Improve Efficiencies

Mireles and Daniels gave an overview of these programs as outlined in their handout. The Family Support Program is a state funded program of in-home support for families who have children with severe disabilities. The program recognizes that meeting the needs of children who have severe disabilities may place hardships on a family's emotional, physical and financial resources. The program offers information and help in finding services and maximizing community resources, limited funding for needed services/goods that can't be bought through other sources, and help in linking families with other families to strengthen natural supports. The Service Coordinator and the parents work together to develop an individualized service plan which may include home modifications, transportation, specialized transportation, nursing care and respite care, etc. The program was developed to maximize independence and maximize the parents' ability to care for their child. Daniels said they are doing more outreach as recommended by the Child & Family Advisory Committee. Each year about 100 families receive services while 250 wait for funding.

The Children's Long Term Care Support Waiver is defined as in-home support for families who have children with severe disabilities. This is a home and community-based service waiver which was created as an alternative to placing Medicaid-eligible individuals in hospitals, nursing facilities, or intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation. This preserves their independence and ties to family and friends at a cost no higher than that of institutional care.

Daniels went on to discuss the types of waivers and eligibility. He said the state has been able to release additional slots without additional funding. The wait list went from two years to 10 months.

The Respite Care Program is a supportive service that brings relief to families from the stresses of the daily responsibilities of caring for a child with special needs. Daniels discussed eligibility and the types of respite services available.

WCHSA Conference Summary

Maurer summarized the recent Wisconsin County Human Services Association conference. Overall, this conference was all about the State budget. Former Health & Human Services Secretary Helene Nelson was the lead-off speaker who tried to give some positives, albeit weak, considering economic conditions. While there are 1,000 new autism waiver spots, there will be no progress on funding other services for those in need. She did talk about a push for regional consortiums where services can be provided better together than individually. This was an overall theme spoke of by the state people and they may very well have ideas for future consortiums.

Another speaker talked in favor of forming non-profit centers which bring together various small non-profits to share costs such as housing, staff, etc. The message was to be open to this, be involved in your communities, and be ready to demonstrate “why” and have statistics ready. Chances are the public sector will not be able to fund you the way they used to and you need to be open to these partnerships.

Other speakers talked about the new workforce, basically demographics, and our aging population and fewer workers available to care for them.

Tom Joseph of the National Association of County Human Service Administration spoke about funding that had been restored at the federal level which without it would have made our picture even more bleak. He spoke about weatherization dollars, community block grant dollars that had been restored, childcare development dollars, etc.

Mark O’Connell of the Wisconsin Counties Association spoke about the state budget crisis. He believes to get out of this crisis Wisconsin needs to change the tax system. We are no longer a manufacturing economy. He spoke of the lessening of the middle class who used to be the core of the tax structure. He was advocating for people to pay attention to the Wisconsin Way Initiative. He also talked about states that are doing well and why. It’s about opportunities, a fair tax structure, quality of life, and education.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Decker to adjourn the board at 4:02 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Jaske to adjourn the committee at 4:02 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on: _____

Kathleen M. Cummings
Secretary